Vol. V. [29] Numb. 8

A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, April 15. 1708.

IN my arguing against the Suspicions we have hastily entertain'd of our Brethren in *Scotland* joyning with the Pretender, I undertook to give you some Hints, who were indeed most likely to forward that Attempt, and from what Principles; and really this is naturally deduced from their own Management; and in order to enter a little on the Search, let us observe, that in the Multitude of mad Projects offer'd to the World of late by this weak and despicable Party among us, call'd *High-Flyers*, almost every thing has given us Hints of this Design: Was it not a merry Thought to reflect, how nicely they were wheedling us lately about *uniting the Episcopal Clergy in* Scotland *with the Church of* England? I call these People despicable, because they appear desperate; and when an Enemy is once made desperate, he is really despicable; if they were not desperate, they would never fly to such scandalous Shifts as these, which discover so much the Nakedness of their Party, and the Weakness of their Cause.

To joyn *Scots* Bishops and the *English*! Now besides a Question I put in a late *Review* to be answer'd by the *Rehearsal*, *if he thought fit*, and which I dare say, he knows better than to meddle farther with; methinks it would be very proper to examine, whether this is not one of the grossest Affronts that he could offer to the *English* Clergy, *if he means joyning them to the present Body of the Clergy Establish'd since the Revolution*: To joyn them with a Body of

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Non-Jurant, Jacobite, Scots Bishops; indeed if he means by the Church of *England*, the dispossess'd *Jacobite* Clergy, *as he must do, if he acts according to his own profess'd Principles*, and as by his many Cavils since, it appears he does, then let them unite with all our Hearts; I wish, they and all their Party were fairly united, and would shew their Faces for their scoundrel Cause; that they would draw out and let us see them, and fairly make a Day of it—They would do us much less Harm in the Field than in their underhand Machinations, and in the Arts and Tricks which they use slily to amuse and make uneasie the People.

And to shew a little the Temper, and give you a Sketch of the Character of these *Scots Episcopal* Gentlemen, that he would have joyn'd to our Church. Shall I tell you a short Story, if Mr. *Rehearsal* can clear them of it, let him go about it as soon as possible.

The *14th* of *January* last, was a solemn Fast appointed by Authority; the Introduction to the Proclamation enjoyning this Fast is very Emphatical, and full of Religious Motives to it. *We having a deep Sence of the Over-ruling Providence of GOD, by whose Infinite Wisdom all Things are Directed and Order'd; and taking into our most serious Consideration the Just and Necessary War against the* French *King, wherein We, with several other Princes and States of* Europe *are Engaged, upon the Success whereof the Common Safety and Wellfare of Our Kingdoms, and the Liberties of* Europe, *do (under GOD) wholly depend; Have out of Our Religious Disposition, Ordained, That a General and Publick Fast shall be Observ'd throughout Our whole Kingdom of* Great Britain. The Intent and Design of it is as remarkably serious. *That so both We and Our People may Humble Our Selves before Almighty GOD, in order to obtain Pardon for our Sins, and may, in most Devout and Solemn Manner, send up our Prayers and Supplications to the Divine Majesty, for Averting those heavy Judgments which our manifold Sins and Provocations have most justly deserv'd, and Imploring His Blessing and Assistance on the Arms of Us and Our Allies, and Our and Their Forces, both by Sea and Land; and for Restoring and Perpetuating Peace, Safety and Prosperity, to Us and Our Kingdoms, and the Nations and States in Alliance with Us.* The Earnestness, wherewith Her Majesty enjoyns this Fast, is very copiously contain'd in the last Paragraph of the said Proclamation. Thus, *And we do strictly Charge and Command, That the said Publick Fast be reverently and decently observ'd by all Our Loving Subjects, within our said Kingdom of* Great Britain, *on the said Fourteenth Day of* January *next, as they tender the Favour of Almighty GOD, and would avoid his Wrath and Indignation, and upon Pain of such Punishment as We may justly inflict on all such as contemn or neglect the Performance of so Religious a Duty.*

Now pray, Gentlemen, let us examine a little, how many of the *Scots* Bishops that the *Rehearsal* pretends to have united with the *English* Clergy, how many of the persecuted Clergy that are turn'd out of their Livings, and oppress'd for Conscience Sake, how many of these kept this Fast? —Should your Charity be disposed among the *Scots* Clergy who are persecuted for meer Conscience, and that conform to the Government, tho' they cannot to the Church; in short were it to be disposed to none, but such as do not on all Occasions declare themselves Enemies to the Government, and are *Dissenters* in Politicks as well as Religion; I say, it would either make that FEW very rich, or must be return'd to you again for Want of Objects.

In short, to testifie this Matter more plainly, let me communicate to you a Letter which I have had by me sometime, and which I have so often shewn in Conversation, that I have Witnesses enough of its being an Original, and the Author of it also well known; I shall make but small Comments on such Things as these, they are Matters of Fact, any Body may draw Consequences from them.

Edinburgh, Jan. 22.

SIR, 1708.

I Could not refrain to advertise you of the following Particulars, which I doubt not you will improve for the publick Advantage; It is known to you that her Majesty by Proclamation having appointed a solemn Fast to be observ'd throughout Britain, *on the* 14th *of* January; *the Privy-Council here conform to the*

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QUEEN's Command, appointed it accordingly in those Parts. My Lord Provoſt *concluding it to be his Duty to ſee it Religiouſly obſerved according to the Injunction of the Government, appointed certain proper Officers of each Diviſion to walk round the City, and ſee that the QUEEN's Command was obey'd, and to prevent any Neglect of the due Obſervance of the Day; theſe among other Enquiries were to obſerve, if the* Diſſenters *at their Meeting-Houſes obſerv'd the Faſt; upon the Return and Report of the ſaid Officers it appear'd, that of all the* Epiſcopal *Meeting-Houſes in this City not One had any Preaching, or were ſo much as open'd upon this Occaſion, except Mr.* Walker *an* Epiſcopal *Miniſter, who very freely obſerv'd the Day— The Reſt were all ſhut up—— There were ſome Obſervations made, that both at* Leith *and here, the other Party made their publick Appearance at the Taverns and Publick-Houſes, of which ſome Notice has alſo been taken, in order to proſecute the ſaid Houſes by Law———Thus theſe Gentlemen teſtify'd, that to pray for the Succeſs of her Majeſty's Arms, is inconſiſtent with their Principles, and what they have no Inclination to do, tho' this is but the leaſt Part of their Averſion, which they diſcover on all Occaſions, both to her Majeſty's Perſon and Government.*

This confirms what I am upon exactly; and here you may ſee, who are for *French* Invaders and *Popiſh* Pretenders, and who not; and no Queſtion it has been the Plot of this Party to caſt the Jealouſie off from themſelves on the *Presbyterian*, becauſe they oppos'd the Union—And here appears, what I noted before, of the Difference between DISSATISFACTION and DISAFFECTION; this may make Men uneaſie, but that employs them to oppoſe; theſe may complain, but 'tis thoſe contrive; Diſſatisfaction aims at Satisfaction, but Diſaffection puſhes at Foundations; the *Preſbyterians* may ſeek Redreſs and Eaſe in Scruples about the Union, but the *Jacobites* are a People, whoſe Intereſt is inconſiſtent with the Union, and by Conſequence aim at its Deſtruction; this, I think, needs no more Comment, but I may perhaps touch at the Characters of each hereafter.

MISCELLANEA.

WHO can think of the Prince of *Wales*, as they call him, and his Expedition againſt this Kingdom, and eſpecially of his going back again, without looking his Enemies in the Face, without thinking a little of Mr. *Rehearſal*'s tender-hearted Prince *Roboboam*? Who, when his Father's Subjects rejected him, ſays the *Rehearſal*, had not the Heart to compel them to their Duty by Force—— Not but that the *Rehearſal* bel.....s *Roboboam* too, for he would have gone up againſt them, but GOD Almighty forbad him peremptorily with this Anſwer,

Stir not a Foot, thy new rais'd Troops diſband,
Said the Almighty Voice, 'tis my Command.

I know, this makes the *Rehearſal* call him Fool too, becauſe he durſt not go againſt them in ſpight of Heaven; he is a Fool of a Tyrant, that can't fight his Rebells without conſulting Heaven; Tyrants never conſult Heaven, if they did, they would never be Tyrants; for the Eternal Law is a Law of Liberty, but Tyrants act by the Nature of the Thing againſt Heaven, and 'tis the Height of Folly to ask Advice of Heaven in a Caſe directly againſt him.

And now our tender-hearted Prince, our young *Roboboam*, who was coming to chaſtiſe us with Scorpions, can be no Tyrant, for he has ſhewn himſelf too tender-hearted to fight, and therefore *Rekoboam* like, he is gone Home again, in order to ſatisfie himſelf, knowing, or at leaſt if he would conſult Heaven, he might know, that as to the Revolution and the Defection of his Fathers Subjects, as it was ſaid by the Oracle

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